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Library Economy and Bibliography

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Contents :

	Page		Page
EDITORIAL :	171	COMMUNICATIONS :	176
The New Departure in Public Libraries.		Folk-lore Again.	
CLASSIFICATION AND NOTATION OF THE BOOK ARTS.—		Co-operative Cataloging.	
H. J. Carr.	172	LIBRARY ECONOMY AND HISTORY	178
A WIDER USE FOR THE LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC		BIBLIOGRAPHY	178
SOCIETIES.	176	GIFTS AND REQUESTS	183
THE SALE OF PRIVATE LIBRARIES.	177	BLUNDERS	182
		HOW BOOKS ARE ASKED FOR	182
		GENERAL NOTES.	182

Supplement :

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

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OCTOBER, 1884.

NO. 10.

C. A. CUTTER, *Editor*.

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PROFESSOR COIT, tracing the evolution of the free public library in America, in his address at the dedication of the Sage Library, last January, told of six stages of development with reference to the possession and use of books by the people,—the first, the stage of private libraries; the second, that of private institutional libraries, like those of colleges and other learned bodies; the third, that of association or joint-stock libraries; the fourth, that of common school libraries; the fifth, that of endowed libraries; the sixth, that of free public libraries created, it may be, by private benefaction, but sustained, in part at least, at the public cost. He could not have anticipated that a seventh would dawn so soon, a stage which, both from its magic number and its nature, must be the last,—the era of closed libraries. On the thirteenth of September the Fletcher Free Library, of Burlington, Vt., founded by the private benefaction of Mary Fletcher, and sustained hitherto at the public cost, was obliged to close its doors "till further appropriation be made for current expenses." The Aldermen, frightened by a state of things which can be imagined by any one who has read the article on municipal finances in the October number of *Harper's magazine*, regretting the extravagance of themselves or their predecessors, looking round for some means of diminishing expenses, fell upon the intellectual wants of the community as those that could be denied

with the least result of dissatisfaction. It is always so. The material wants must be supplied. Man shall not live by food alone; but he can live a long time with food only, and he cannot live without it. When something must be given up, it is always education and culture that are first thought of. But at Burlington the choice of an object to be sacrificed has not passed entirely without a protest. "A Woman" writes to the *Free press*, lamenting the disappointment of other women who have laid out courses of study that they will not be able to complete, pointing out the loss to those laboring women who have depended on the library books for rest and recreation for their evenings and Sundays, and not forgetting the mothers, who have hitherto relied upon the library to furnish interesting and instructive reading to their restless boys and girls, and to lift themselves out of the narrow round of home duties and give them glimpses of the outer world. We cannot tell whether this action of the Burlington Aldermen shows what is to become general if the present hard times continue and become worse, and if we are really to enter upon a period of eclipse. It is to be hoped not; but if such things can be done in a city which is said to contain an unusual number of cultivated women, they will be done where culture has a weaker hold. It behooves the friends of public libraries to be prepared for the worst—to be ready for defence, and in the mean time to make libraries as useful as possible, that their hold on the regard of the people may be strong. It is well for every library to get endowments from private generosity, if possible. With the reckless squandering of municipal resources and the rapid increase of city debts the time of poverty is sure to come, sooner or later—the time when every cent will be scrutinized before it is paid out. Happy, then, will be the library that has funds of its own and is not dependent on the pittance grudgingly doled out to it by an indifferent city government!

CLASSIFICATION AND NOTATION OF THE BOOK-ARTS.

BY H. J. CARR.

[Publication, with the writer's consent, of a private letter.]

I HAVE been seeking some satisfactory classification for such material in bibliography as I have on hand and may possibly yet acquire. Although not by any means extensive or noteworthy, still I wanted it arranged for convenient use and reference whenever I might have occasion to call upon it, and without the necessity of crowding my memory especially, in order to keep track of what I possessed. And I wanted a classification and notation suitable for scraps and references, etc., as well as for books and pamphlets. So I tried that part of Mr. Schwartz's, as it supplied a numbering method, and as in other classes seemed well shaped. It proved too brief and condensed for my purpose, however, a trouble which I find in some other divisions of his scheme.

Next I tried Mr. Edmands's scheme, which is very practical, and also gives a numbering method. Found it to answer quite nicely and to be very usable, although it puts together some subsections which I preferred separate, for the more I worked at the matter the more I became disposed to be critical and exacting. Much the same was the result of my experiments with the classifications of Mr. Perkins and Mr. Smith.

Then I tried massing them all, by writing out the titles of every class and division named by each, and then assorting same together and discarding duplicates, at the same time putting in some of my own notions. I soon found myself inclined to broaden the field which I had at first set out to cover, and that, after all, your section and general arrangement of "Book Arts" (*Library Journal*, 7 : 168-172), was what I wanted, and had nearly arrived at, although before I had been inclined to "dodge" it, because I thought it went deeper than I had any use for. Meanwhile, as more leisure permitted, I had begun reading up the *Library Journal* for this year (necessarily deferred before), and as soon as I grasped the general idea of Mr. Larned's new class notation, with its accompanying sample classification, etc., in the April

number (p. 62-69), and the editorial comments in the July number, I found that it gave a most satisfactory notation, and soon settled down to the general arrangement and adaptation, of which I inclose you a schedule. I have also said as much to Mr. Larned, and sent him a copy.

I had hoped that Mr. Larned's classification in detail might be published, and so permit the use of whatever notation he has set apart for the particular divisions I am interested in. And I am not so strongly prejudiced toward my present scheme but that I still hope there is room for something better from him in the near future.

As you will see, I have taken your general arrangement of the Book Arts as a basis, and interjected an occasional term from others, with some of my own notions, and made some variations in order and nomenclature from my own "inner consciousness," adding also, as a sort of running commentary, some additional terms, either as synonymous, or names of kindred subjects, etc., to be included as shown.

In the matter of notation, not knowing what Mr. Larned might have set apart for bibliography (provided he shall see fit to continue his classification, and does not break up and distribute such matters into other classes, like the treatment accorded to biography, etc.), I went to the foot of the alphabet and took the entire W series (consonant-vowel-consonant combinations). Partly, too, because the Edmands and Schwartz classifications, with which I had been experimenting, made use of W, so that it was in a manner associated in my mind with bibliography. Did not have to practice any economy in the use of the notation characters since I was treating the subject by itself, regardless of any prior divisions. The geographical arrangement in all divisions admitting of it, and by subjects in others, which your scheme contemplates originally, is not the less feasible in this by the addition of Mr. Larned's country- and subject-notation (when we learn what they

are), as you have so pertinently shown the advantages of in commenting on his.

Now, it is very possible that in more or less instances I have construed your classification wrongly, and by too much of my own "personal equation" made applications to divisions which you did not intend at all. If so, I hope to be corrected. I see, too, that I have occasionally run counter to your expressed views; notably so in separating publishers' and sale catalogs, etc., concerning which I agree with you, and yet for my own purposes such a separation was desirable, however illogical, in order to reduce the number of entries in each division to smaller quantities. So, also, I fear I have in some instances violated the admirable principles which Mr. Larned so well lays down in the *Library Journal* for April (p. 63rd and 64th). But in each instance there seemed a reason for so doing. Your remarks in the August *Library Journal* anent minute division of Shaksperiana, are applicable in the case of this schedule also, so far as I am concerned; and for the limited use I shall probably be able to make of it, such an over-divided classification is somewhat ridiculous, and much better adapted to a large and diverse collection. At the same time it seemed more philosophical and satisfactory, on the whole, to make tolerably fine divisions, and thus be prepared for the future; also as the best clue to what might be the strength or weakness in any particular division of the collection to which the arrangement is applied. Regarding its scope for a large collection, I have hastily examined the large list of bibliog. entries contained in the Subj. Index and Suppl. of the N. Y. State Library, but find none there which this scheme would not place. At present I have not access to the material for a more detailed trial.

Referring to the division Incunabula, did you really intend to have same confined to the strict meaning of the term? At any rate you will see that I have enlarged its scope quite a little, so as to include rarities, and instances of the early age of literature much this side of the century at which the line for incunabula is usually drawn. And for a practical reason, mainly, in that in this age and country, the real, genuine incunabula are nearly as scarce as hens' teeth; and in the common mind the phrase is usually intended to cover antiquities and rarities, down to within a couple of hundred years.

<i>Cutter's notation.</i>	<i>Carr's notation.</i>	<i>BOOK ARTS.</i> [I have taken the liberty to add my own notation by the side of Mr. Carr's. — C: A. C.]
x	W	Books arts in general.
		<i>BOOK PRODUCTION.</i>
x1	Wa	Authorship; and principles of Criticism.
x11	Wac	Composition and Rhetoric.
x1x	Wad	Indexing. { Scrap-booking.
		<i>WRITING.</i>
x2	Waf	Writing: { Penmanship; Or- { namental Alfab- { ets; and Letter- { ing.
x3	Wag	Paleography; { Diplomatics.
x2A	Wak	Autography; and catalogs of Autographs.
	Wal	Collections of Autographs and fac-similes.
x4, x5	Wam	Manuscripts; catalogs of.
	Wan	Collections of mss.
x2x	Wap	Cryptography. { Cipher-writ- { ing. Stegano- { grafy.
		Brachygrafy.
x2s	War	Shorthand. { Phonetic writ- { ing. Phonogra- { fy. Stenogra- { chy.
x6	Wat	Illumination and kindred mss. and book ornament.
x2M	Wav	Materials for writing and printing. (Paper and Inks)
x2N	Waw	Chirographic appliances. (In- cluding Typewriters, etc.)
x7	We	Printing: the art; { { (for literary purposes). Typografy.
x8, x9	Wed	Printing: the history.
xA	Wef	Incunabula: catalogs and history.
xB	Weg	Incunabula: the { { books them- Antiques. { selves.
		Block books. Book rarities. Early printed books. Early playing cards. Rarissima, etc.
x7A	Wek	Celebrated printers; history and biography of.
	Wem	Specimens of { Exemplaria { printing. typografica.
	Wen	Printing for the blind.
xB	Wep	Binding and book preserva- tion.
xC3	Wer	Celebrated binders, history and biography of.
	Wes	Curious bind- ings. Fine Exemplaria. bindings.

[illegible]

XX	Wup	Subject bibliography, in order of subjects.	Special forms of bibliography.	x7c	Composition.
			Bibliog. of separate subjects.		
			Catalogs of books on special subjects.	x7d	Type-setting and distributing machines.
			Special catalogs and treatises.	x7m	Printers' marks.
			Subject catalogs.	x7s	Specimens of printing.
				x7r	Types, specimen books.
				x7z	Lives and work of noted printers.

XY, XZ	Wyz	Selection of reading.	"Hints for home reading."
			"Books and reading," etc.

NOTES BY C. A. CUTTER.

In my classification x1 is subdivided as follows:

x11	Rhetoric in general.
x12 to x1q	Rhetoric applied to various branches of literature, as.
x12	Journalism.
x1d	Dramatic writing.
x1f	Novel writing.
x1p	Poetical composition.
x1r	Rhetoric applied to other things not included above, as.
x1rf	Historical composition, rhetorically considered.
x1x	Indexing.
x1x8	Index societies.

Waf to War. My arrangement of this is:

x2	Writing, in general.
x2a	Autographs.
x2c	Character in writing.
x2k	Kalligraphy, penmanship.
x2m	Materials for writing.
x2mi	Ink.
x2mp	Paper.
x2n	Tools, writing, pens, typewriter, etc.
x2p	Alphabet, origin, history, etc.
x2q, x2r	Alfabet, arranged by countries.
x2s	Shorthand.
x2t	Takigraphy.
x2v	Phonography, Phonotypy.
x2v	Visible speech.
x2w	Pasigraphy.
x2x	Cryptography, Signals.

Wan. I shall not keep mss. in this class but, for safety in a class by themselves marked by some sign not yet determined upon.

x7. The details of this are:

x7c	Composition.
x7d	Type-setting and distributing machines.
x7m	Printers' marks.
x7s	Specimens of printing.
x7r	Types, specimen books.
x7z	Lives and work of noted printers.

Weg. The name Incunabula does not properly cover book rarities; and I cannot see the propriety of mixing with works which are collected only as monuments of the history of printing other works which do not, so far as their quality of rarity goes, have any connexion with the history of printing. Rare books should, like mss., form a little class by themselves, so that they can be kept under lock and key. For books about rare books there is a place further on (xq in my classification, Wuf in Mr. Carr's), and if they are to go in this class at all they should come in there.

Wi. Add xdc Copyright.
xjd Journalistic publishing.

Wim, Win. This seems to me out of place; the stamp collector is as different from the book collector as the collector of engravings, and almost as much as the collector of bric-a-brac. Stamps are not in any sense books, nor have they any connection with them, as ex-libris have.

[Wim, Win. I agree with Mr. Cutter regarding the illogical insertion of these divisions, and yet for my purposes their use is a convenience in this general field. I find that I am erring in that respect in some other divisions, although, as in this instance, some very competent authorities might be cited who include Philately in the field of Bibliography, or as an allied subject. H: J. C.]

xq. The subdivisions for this class are:

xqc	Condemned and prohibited books.
xqe	Early printed books.
xqi	Imaginary libraries.
xql	Lost books.
xqp	Privately printed books.
xqr	Rare books.
xqv	Vellum printed books.

Wuk. Americana usually means "books about America," not "American literature," and would go better in Wup than here. [Grant-ed. H: J. C.]

xx. The subdivisions of this section are marked by adding the sign of the subject treated of in the bibliography; thus, m being medicine xxm is a medical bibliography; u being Art, bibliography of art is xxu.

A WIDER USE FOR THE LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

From *Science*.

To those who are obliged to use the libraries of our smaller colleges, it is often a source of vexation to find that the books one is referred to are wanting. The resources of the colleges are limited, and the amount of money which can be expended for the purchase of new books small, and that small amount often devoted, according to the wishes of the donor, to the class of books least needed. A case in point occurred lately, where a college professor of mathematics was asked to write a short account of the life of Todhunter; and he felt obliged to say that he would be glad to undertake the article, but could not before he had visited the libraries of either New York or Boston, which he hoped to be able to do during his next vacation.

This constant lacking of just the books one needs for his work is most hampering. It is not the *Century*, or the *Harper*, or the latest novel, or the new book of travel, which cannot be had (these find their way into all the odd corners), but it is the specialist's books, a volume of the transactions of some learned society, a scientific journal, or the modern treatises on thermo-dynamics, on electricity, or on biology, which are needed, and which can be found only in a very few of our libraries in the necessary profusion.

A few such libraries have now been collected by our older scientific societies and our larger colleges. The books of the college libraries are for a specific purpose, and find abundant use at the hands of the students and professors. With the societies the matter stands differently. It cannot be denied that one of the original objects of the establishment of these societies was, that, by the publication of their own "proceedings," they might, by exchange, gather a collection of books which could not, in the then comparatively poor state of the country, be gathered in any other way, and which were to be for the use of the members, and such favored friends as they might designate.

It has so happened that these societies were established by the small knots of scientific men gathered about our larger colleges. These colleges have developed, and their libraries have grown more and more valuable; so that the professors no longer find it necessary to go to their academy for books. At the same time the machinery of their long-established organization has grown more effective; and, while many of the members no longer need their society collection of books, the number and value of those added to the shelves each year are constantly increasing. The result is, that in some of our larger cities there are accumulating very considerable libraries of special works which are scarcely used, as they are duplicated at some neighboring college about which those employing such books live.

It is, of course, with regret that one enters

such a library, if library it may be called, and sees the new books which are not called for by the former clientage of the collection, but which would eagerly be asked for if the circle of favored outsiders were widened so as to include all properly vouched for persons who might live within one, two, or three hundred miles, or even more, and who would be willing to pay a small annual fee to defray the expense of sending books to them by mail or express, and for the extra wear and danger of loss. It is true that such books as could not be readily replaced in case of loss would necessarily be retained from such a widespread circulation; but these would be only the older volumes of the various series, and such books as are very generally kept from such extra risks.

The expense of mailing would be considerable; it would average, on volumes of the size of a bound volume of the *American journal of science*, about sixteen cents each way. To this must be added the cost of handling, and some slight charge for the privilege of use. Altogether, the expense of taking out, say, forty books of this class in the course of the year would be in the neighborhood of ten to fifteen dollars—a charge which could be reduced very materially by sending for the books a number at a time, so that they might be forwarded to advantage by express; the amount named above being the maximum if each book were mailed separately.

That the expense of using a library through the mails would mount up very rapidly is evident; but the facts remain, that there are large libraries of books solely on matters of interest to scientific men, and of vital interest to such men, and that these libraries exist in communities where by duplication they no longer have their former use. It is highly desirable that the books should be put to use; and their owners would probably be glad to arrange some plan by which the scheme of extending the circulation through the mails could be made practicable. It would be of great advantage in perfecting plans, if those who might be benefited would come forward and state their position.

I noticed in the last number of *Science* a proposition to render the libraries of the various scientific societies more useful by circulating the books somewhat by mail, among persons located in small towns.

If those having charge of those libraries knew what a blessed boon such an arrangement would be to a man situated as I have been for a few years, I am sure they would heartily second the proposition. Colleges are often located in small towns, and are very poorly supplied with the means for scientific study or investigation. Professors in such institutions would be delighted with any arrangement not involving *very great* expense, which would give them access in any way during term-time to a good scientific library. Would not some such arrangement as this be a wise one?—Require a person wishing for the privi-

lege of taking books from the library to give bond for a sum sufficient to meet all possible liabilities, and charge to his account all the actual expenses incident to packing and mailing or expressing books to him, and also any books not returned. Charge him, also, a small annual fee for the use of the books. In that case, he would pay only the actual expenses, and for the use of the books.—W. Z. BENNETT.

WOOSTER, WAYNE COUNTY, O., Oct. 7.

Mr. Edward Burgess, the librarian of the Boston Society of Natural History, informs *Science* of the liberal policy which that institution has adopted. Such of its books as can be replaced will be sent to students in any part of the country without any charge for use of the volumes, except the expense of transportation. As a guarantee against loss, strangers are required to make a deposit of twice the market value of the books. This is an example which, as Mr. Burgess remarks, may well be followed by all special libraries.

THE SALE OF PRIVATE LIBRARIES.

THE past season has been the *annus mirabilis* of book auctions. The Duke of Hamilton's library fetched £170,000 in a sale of about 40 days, by far the greatest book sale on record. The Sunderland library brought little more than one fourth as much, and the Earl of Gosford's books only £9000. It is remarkable that the depression of trade did not adversely affect the prices of rare books, the market for which is sustained by a constantly increasing demand from America. It is the fashion to lament the breaking up of these great libraries. It seems reasonable, however, to rejoice that precious books should escape from the hands of possessors, who, if not ignorant, are at all events unappreciative, and become the property of men who, by paying for them, show that they value them. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the example of these book-dispersing peers will be largely followed. But how much better would it be if, instead of utterly neglecting their libraries, as they now do, until they find it convenient to turn them into cash, these descendants of book-loving ancestors would in each case, where the library is large enough, keep a librarian, or from time to time employ one, whose business it should be to know the books, keep up the catalogue, sift out and dispose of rubbish and duplicates, and watch the market for opportunities of buying where gaps need to be filled up. There are men to whom such employment would be paradise on earth, men of the Dibdin stamp, and the money they would make or save for their employers, besides the credit of maintaining the libraries in tip-top condition, would be very considerable. Meanwhile, the next great book sale will be in December, when the library of Sir John Thorold, now at Syston Hall, will come to the hammer. It is particularly strong in early printed books, and is now being catalogued by Messrs. Sotheby. — *Pall Mall Gazette*.

COMMUNICATION.

FOLK-LORE AGAIN.

You suggest a new class. Have you a class for the history of culture (*Culturgeschichte*)? Where do you place Gruber's *Geschichte des menschlichen Geschlechts*, or Klemm's, Wachsmuth's, or Honegger's *Culturgeschichte*? In short, it seems as if too we must accept the discrimination between "*Weltgeschichte*" and "*Culturgeschichte*," and fix a name in English. "*History of civilization*," in the ordinary sense, hardly covers it. Why not, since we have fixed this use of "*Culture*" (Tylor's *Primitive culture*), call it "*History of culture*," and make it include "*Die histor. Darlegung des gesammten Bildungsprocesses der Menschheit von den ersten Anfängen menschlicher Vernunftsthatigkeit bis zu ihren Errungenschaften in der Gegenwart*."

It is in the line of the modern demand for a "*history of the people*, rather than a history of kings." Folk-lore falls naturally into place under this.

E. C. RICHARDSON.

I WISH I could agree with you about Folk-lore. But though I recognize the cogency of your arguments for putting it with *Generals and Preliminaries*, still it seems to me out of place even there. If you have a special division of *Antiquities*, why could it not go with them?

The Shaksperian classification is excellent.

R. BLISS.

CO-OPERATIVE CATALOGING.—A SUGGESTION.

A LITTLE start might be made on co-operative cataloguing by printing stickers, giving, for instance, articles, *i.e.*, serials and great articles, like Macaulay's, *e.g.*, in periodicals which are in the library in books, and reviews of books. That is, I would print (on gummed paper?) in sizable type, slips which could be affixed to the cards for the books. By taking common articles and reviews of common books in common periodicals, it seems to me that, considering the small expense and the number of libraries which would be served, a beginning in co-operative cataloguing could be made along this line more easily than on any other I have yet thought of. I also have some faith in printing a thousand or so universal entries and references, which could be set up by the printer from a printed catalogue. Some other time I may give further details.

I do not care so much about the intrinsic value of these particular lines of co-operative cataloguing. I am only trying to find something to begin on. I think in some cases, and perhaps in this, the hardest thing is to begin. If we only could begin on a very simple thing, the mere fact that it was successful would improve the chances of support one hundred per cent for something else. I think that perhaps another trial of the title slip registry, now that the library *esprit du corps* has had growth in later years, would stand a better chance of success. But anyway, if the mere list of serials,

brought down to date, which Mr. Fletcher printed in the *Library journal*, were printed as I have indicated, and met with a successful sale among libraries, some modest schemes of co-operative cataloguing would be feasible. I hope so.

W. K. STETSON.

Library Economy and History.

CASTELLANI, C. *Le biblioteche nell' antichità*. Bologna, Monti, 1884. 24+60 p. 8°. 2 lire.

In four divisions: 1, The East; 2, Greece and Egypt; 3, Rome; 4, Results.

The gist of the work is this: The oldest collections of books are those of the Assyrians and the Chaldeans; there are conjectured to have been some among the Hebrews, the Carthaginians, and the Phœnicians. Greece had no public libraries; Athens owed hers to a Roman emperor, Adrian. But the Greeks of Egypt and Asia boasted of the great collections at Alexandria and at Pergamos. The Romans had libraries very early, first private, then public. During the first two centuries almost every emperor founded one, except Caligula. There were at Rome six great public libraries, each in two sections, Greek and Latin, and ornamented with columns and statues. They were placed near the temples, to mark the agreement between religion and wisdom.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBRARY. School of library economy; circular of information. [N. Y., 1884.] 36 p. D.

The part relating to the school of library economy appeared in the *Library journal* for July, p. 117-120.

POOLE, W. F. The use of books. No. 3. (Pages 1, 2 of *High school journal*, vol. 1, no. 6, Chicago, Sept. 1884.)

SASSI, Daniele. *La Biblioteca Civica di Torino*; monografia presentata alla Esposizione Generale Italiana dal Municipio. Torino, 1884. 37 p. + 2 plates 4°. (Not for sale.)

STERN, L. *Die Bibliothek in Cairo*. (Pages 233-37 of *Deutsche Revue*, Breslau.)

Mainly to vindicate the authorities of the library from charges consequent upon Spitta's dismissal from the post of librarian.

Abstracts of and extracts from reports.

Boston, P. L. (Added 16,478 v., 17,368 pm.; total 438,594; issued 1,056,906, of which only 58 were not returned; expended for books \$26,709.61, periodicals \$3,331.39, salaries \$74,703.85; other objects \$24,250.43.)

The Examining Committee recommend telephonic communication between the library and one of the branches, and say that "some of the salaries are very low, especially some of these ranging from \$450 to \$900. The hours

of labor are longer and the vacations shorter than those of the teachers in the public schools, who receive higher pay." The Librarian reports that "there have been fewer applications for assistance, on the part of readers, than in former years. Taking into account the growth in the circulation, this can be explained only by supposing that our system of cataloguing is becoming more clearly understood by those who frequent this part of the library; in other words, that readers are rapidly learning the art of helping themselves. That our catalogue can be easily understood, in most of the details, by people of average intelligence, is clearly shown by the fact that boys and girls of a dozen or fifteen years of age have no difficulty in finding the works they are seeking.

"The work of the Lower Hall catalogue department has taken more of an educational turn than ever before. The total of applications for help is a trifle less, but they show a wider range of practical research and a spirit of investigation remarkably active among us."

Columbia Coll. Lib. We do not make any extracts from this report, because we should have to reprint the whole. Librarians who have not received it will do well to get it and read it through.

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BENOIT, Arthur. *Les ex-libris de Schœpflin*. Paris, Rouveyre, 1884. 14p. + 2 pl. 8°. (200 copies, 4 on Japan, 6 on colored, 190 on Dutch paper.)

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"Bibliographies of special authors have but an ephemeral value, if made during the life, or at least during the activity, of a writer. It would therefore, in our judgment, have been better to restrict the one just issued by the National Museum to Professor Baird's direct contributions to science, which have avowedly ceased, and to postpone mention of those undertaken with the assistance of many collaborators (which record the advance of science through the researches of others), or dealing primarily

with applied science. However important this latter work may have been—and we should be far from underrating its importance, especially in the development of science in America—it not only hinders a proper retrospect, an independent *coup d'œil* of his remarkably extensive and valuable contributions to the vertebrate zoology of North America, but it seems to demand, at some future time, a repetition of this work, with its almost painful detail and voluminous indexes. The first was the only pressing need: for the other, we could have contented ourselves for the present with the indexes of the everywhere procurable annual records, Smithsonian reports, and fish-commission publications.

"A scientific friend, himself a bibliographer, does not look with complacency upon the announcement that similar bibliographies will be given of other still living naturalists. He asks whether those directing or engaged upon this work could not turn their bibliographic energies to better account in another direction. Fathers of a broad science, or pioneers in a vast field, who cover that field, are few indeed; and only their bibliographies, when carried out with the fulness of that which furnishes us our text, can have any possible permanent, or even great temporary, value. What are really wanted are topical and geographical bibliographies, which shall lighten the labor of the expert, and lessen the chances of incorrect statement, and, above all, of unnecessary re-statement. These are the true aids to progress for a generation burdened with a literature vast, ill-assorted, inchoate. Individual bibliographies do not penetrate its depths. Let our zealous bibliographers devote to such work the same time and pains they would give to that proposed, and the result will be of tenfold immediate value, and it will have at least some lasting worth."—*Science*.

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Monthly; subscription 30 cts. per year. Besides lists of accessions this is to contain a complete catalog of the library, issued in parts separately paged. "The large circulation and promised advertising patronage enable us to place the price at a nominal sum."

Gifts and Bequests.

LANCASTER, MASS. — Mrs. Augusta Brewer Thayer has bequeathed \$2000 to the library, to be known as the C. T. Thayer fund.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY has received from the Hon. J. Wentworth, of Chicago, an entire set of the *N. H. Register*. There are known to be but five complete sets of the *N. H. Register*. One of these will go to a London library and another to a Paris library, while one more is in a library in Chicago. It would be difficult to estimate in money the value of the gift, because there is no record of a complete set ever having been sold together.

BROWN UNIVERSITY. — In the *Providence Journal* J. R. B. gives the following account of Senator Anthony's gift:

"A collection of American poetry bequeathed by the late Senator Anthony to Brown University, deserves more than passing notice. In his will he says:

"I give to the library of Brown University the collection of American poetry which I have recently bought of the estate of my late cousin, Caleb F. Harris, and which, I am told, is the best collection extant. I request that it be kept together, and that over the alcove in which it is placed there be an inscription in Latin by Professor Lincoln."

"THE HARRIS COLLECTION OF AMERICAN POETRY. COMMENCED BY ALBERT G. GREENE, CONTINUED BY CALEB FISKE HARRIS AND HENRY B. ANTHONY. BY THE LATTER PRESENTED TO THIS LIBRARY."

"The late Judge Albert G. Greene was the founder of this collection. Early in life, as he stated to the writer, he began to collect books of American poetry. He was a constant visitor at our bookstores, and when in New York and Boston first sought similar places in search of books and pamphlets containing writings of our poets. He was, at the same time, in correspondence with the late William Gowans, the well-known dealer in old books in New York, and with dealers in Boston, who sent him lists of such poetical works as came into their hands. At the decease of Judge Greene, when his library was sold, nearly 1000 volumes from it came into the possession of the late Caleb Fiske Harris, who had already been many years engaged in making a similar collection to that of Judge Greene.

"Mr. Harris, having abundant means at his disposal, with leisure to pursue his favorite hobby, labored assiduously to extend his collection. He not only sought the aid of booksellers and collectors in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, but had correspondents in London, who kept him advised of every rare book of American poetry. It was in the London market that he procured some of the rarest things. So diligently had he labored in the field, that when, in 1874, he printed what he styles an 'Index to the American poetry and plays in the collection of C. Fiske Harris,' his collection numbered 4129 separate works,

including various editions. The increase since has been not less than 1000 works. At the decease of Mr. Harris his books were disposed of, and Senator Anthony became the purchaser of that portion of it which embraced his collection of American poetry and dramatic literature.

"Mr. Anthony himself was a lover of poetry, and possessed a large number of volumes of the writings of the most favorite British and American poets. The old, the rare, and the curious poets he did not seek. Those he collected were the choicest editions, all of which he had put in the best condition as to binding. These volumes he added to the Harris collection, together with purchases of the works of the most recent poets. The collection as given to Brown University may be said to number more than 5000 separate books and pamphlets. This number includes various editions of the more popular poets, as Longfellow, Lowell, Holmes, Bryant, Whittier, etc. In many instances these are the first editions of the poems of these authors. Under the name of Longfellow there are 67 entries. Of Bryant, 30.

"A curious feature in the collection are the song books, published during the last thirty or forty years. These are sub-divided under the heads of college, martial, naval and patriotic, masonic, negro minstrel, presidential campaign, rebellion and slavery, temperance and miscellaneous songs. As the title of Mr. Harris's 'Index' says, his collection embraces 'plays,' or American dramatic literature. Each play, being separately entered in his catalogue, helps to make up the large number stated.

"Professor Moses Coit Tyler, in writing his admirable work on American literature, passed several days in Mr. Harris's library, consulting books which he could find in no other public or private library. Taken as a whole, we do not hesitate to say that there is no collection in the United States (in the department of American literature to which these books appertain) that can in completeness compare with that which is to grace the shelves of the library of Brown University, the gift of the late Hon. Henry B. Anthony."

BALTIMORE, MD. — The *American*, in commenting upon Enoch Pratt's munificent gift to the city of Baltimore, says: "The Enoch Pratt Free Library building on Mulberry Street, near Cathedral, has been completed, and the purchase of books, etc., for the library will begin at once. Mr. Enoch Pratt has called a meeting of the trustees for Monday next, when the building will be turned over to the trustees, and arrangements will be made to place the library on a working basis and dedicate it for the public use as soon as possible.

"The principal building, which is of romantic style of architecture, has a front of Baltimore county marble. The building is a handsome one. It has frontage of 81 feet 10 inches on Mulberry Street, and a depth of 140 feet. The main entrance to the building is at

the base of a tower 98 feet in height. The hallways are finished with marble wainscoting and highly-polished bricks and tile floors. A broad stairway of stone, with gilded and bronzed balusters, leads to the upper floor. The doors and all other woodwork are ornamental, and of the very best kind. The windows are decorated with stained glass, those in the reading-room being further ornamented with pictures of historians, poets, philosophers, etc. Upon entering the building on the first floor, leading from the vestibule, on the right is the room where books will be delivered, and on the opposite side is another room, for the return of books. Each room is thirty feet square. In the rear of these rooms are two large storage rooms, 75 feet by 37 feet, with a storage capacity of about 130,000 volumes; but the total storage capacity of the building is said to be more than 200,000 volumes.

"On the second floor is a large reading-room; its dimensions are 75 feet long, 37 feet wide, and 25 feet high. The four branch libraries, which are identical, are constructed of pressed bricks, with stone trimmings, with a frontage of forty feet each. There is a reading and delivery-room in each building. As heretofore stated, the Pratt Library will be a free circulating library, and is intended to reach the masses. It will not conflict with the Peabody, as the work accomplished by the two libraries will be entirely different."

PROVIDENCE, R. I. — It is certainly a piece of exceptional good fortune which has preserved intact two of the special collections gathered by the late Mr. C. Fiske Harris, at an almost unprecedented expenditure of pains, time, and money. The American Poetry Collection is now happily the property of the Brown University Library, through the generous bequest of Senator Anthony. The Rebellion Collection has recently passed into the possession of the Providence Public Library. Mr. Harris's personal interest in anti-slavery measures dates back to an early period, thus supplying an important motive as an impulse to his exertions; but when, later on, with the ever widening circle of the political tendencies involved, the literature itself expanded portentously, Mr. Harris, with his large means, was enabled better perhaps than most of those with similar tastes, to secure the additions needed.

The Rebellion Collection numbers in all more than 8300 pieces, of various kinds. Of these 1316 are classed as "books" (with stiff covers), and more than 6000 as "pamphlets," though among the latter are many which far outweigh the average "book," in rarity and value. The remainder of the collection consists of newspapers, periodicals, sheet music, portraits, autographs, posters, and other broadsides. We have spoken of it as a "rebellion collection." This is, however, an inadequate description, unless one understands by it all that is implied in a philosophical study of the rebellion, in its causes, its tendencies, and its results. Under

Mr. Harris's comprehensive scheme—forced upon him no doubt by the exigencies of his expanding collection, rather than adopted with deliberate forethought—are embraced topics so remote in order of time as Las Casas's labors among the San Domingo negroes in 1517; so remote in space as the voyage of "A slave vessel in the Mozambique Channel;" of such minute detail as the manufacture of rifled cannon; and so distinctly abstract as the question of peace or war.

During the later years of Mr. Harris's life his library was unmanageably overcrowded, and in 1878 General Rogers estimated the number of volumes in the house, for which there was no room on the shelves, at "more than eight thousand." Under these circumstances, the proper classification and arrangement of this rebellion collection became more and more an impossibility. In fact, this has not been possible until within the past few weeks, when it has been arranged on the shelves of the Public Library. Great as its fulness was known to be, the result shows an unexpected richness in many directions. It may be regarded as grouped under three main classes, namely, (1) Slavery; (2) American economic and political history (1780-1870); and (3) the War (1861-65). The set of ballads (North and South) is very large, much of the Southern material having been collected by Mr. Brantz Mayer, of Baltimore. In many instances these "broadsides" have been carefully mounted on larger sheets. Another instance of "broadside" literature deserves mention. This is a collection of posters, offering rewards for runaway slaves (chiefly from Virginia). One of these, as it happens, was printed at Harper's Ferry. There is also a blank book of about 100 pages, evidently used by some Charleston slave auctioneer, into which have been pasted the successive printed advertisements of the sales of negroes for a series of months, names and prices being written below. Of works written by slaves there are a considerable number, the earliest being dated 1782. Probably the most curious of these is the following: "Slavery and abolitionism as viewed by a Georgia slave. By Harrison Berry, the property of S. W. Price, Covington, Georgia."

It would be a great mistake to regard this collection as a mere museum of curiosities. It is far more than this, in its exhaustive exposition of the multifarious phases of the subject, and especially in its approximately symmetrical development of the subordinate details. Other collections of rebellion literature have been made at different times, and are now accessible. Harvard College Library has the books and pamphlets of Charles Sumner. The Boston Public Library has those of Wendell Phillips, besides the Hunt collection of West India slavery literature, etc. At Ithaca, N. Y., is the valuable collection of Samuel J. May, now deposited with the Cornell University Library, and also the admirable collection of President White. At Oberlin College is that of William Goodell,

and at Howard University (at Washington), that of Lewis Tappan, another anti-slavery leader. Other important rebellion collections, of greater or less extent, are to be found in the Princeton College Library, Baltimore Mercantile Library, Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, and of course in the Library of Congress, which necessarily contains whatever has been copyrighted. Valuable private collections also exist. Extensive inquiry and correspondence carried on during the past few weeks lead to the conclusion that the Fiske Harris collection is on a different footing from the most of these, and that its richness is at least exceptional. The suggestion is made in the current number of the *Nation* (Oct. 2, 1884), that a co-operative index of the literature of slavery be undertaken by this library, in connection with several of those named above. The advantage of such an index is obvious, and correspondence looking to its accomplishment is now in progress. Mr. Bartlett's "Literature of the Rebellion," published in 1866, might almost pass for a catalogue of the rebellion portion of this collection, as is shown by a copy of the work, checked in ink; though Mr. Harris had several thousand more entries than were here included.

THROUGH the munificence of the German Emperor the Royal Library at Berlin has just been enriched by an extensive collection of ancient Arabic literature, comprising 1,600 works in 1,052 volumes.

BLUNDERS.

A FEW months ago a reader asked me to get him Porter's History of the U. S. navy, and on my suggesting that possibly he meant Preble's History of steam navigation, recollected that that was the title. The other day a professor from another college inquired for the architectural works of Parnassus, in many volumes, costing \$500. He had never seen the books, but an architect had described them to him and he had searched for them in vain for two years. By a little bibliographical legerdemain I found that he meant the works of Piranesi.

If this thing keeps on somebody will have to open a school of library mind-reading. Even that, however, I fear, would fail in such a case as I had last summer, where a student had forgotten the author of the book he wanted, couldn't recall its title, and had no idea of its subject.

H. L. KOOPMAN.

HOW BOOKS ARE ASKED FOR.

"I WANT—a—a—something histrionic." She wanted Berthet's "Prehistoric world."

"I want a nice book."

"Please send Dr. H. two of Dumas's novels that he has never read."

"I want a commentary by a bishop; I do not remember his name."

"A book I saw here nine years ago."

"I don't recollect the title of the book I want, but there was a remarkable passage in the last part which I should remember if I saw it."

General Notes.

MR. R. BLISS has been appointed librarian of the Redwood Library, Newport.

AUSTRIA.—In the Austrian budget for 1884, seven university libraries are put down for sums ranging from 14,400 to 37,500 florins each. A florin is about 41c.

WEST ACTON, MASS.—The Citizens' Library Association has secured a charter under the general law. It has no capital, but is authorized to hold real and personal estate to the amount of \$50,000 for library purposes.

BURLINGTON, VT. The Fletcher Free Library was closed on September 30 for want of funds to carry it on, the Aldermen having failed to make the necessary appropriations. We think this is the first instance of such an occurrence in America.

CEDAR RAPIDS, The Grand Lodge of Iowa has erected a large and fine fire-proof library building, to which the library will be soon removed. A cut of the building forms a frontispiece to the proceedings for 1884; and appended to those of 1883 is a partial catalogue.

PARIS.—The statistics of the 26 municipal libraries are, as given in the *Journal officiel*, volumes, 100,247; library use, 109,670; home use, 440,670; greatest issue, December, 54,914; least issue, July, 42,050; issue, Sciences and arts, about 10 per cent; History, etc., 8; Geography and travels, 9; Fiction, 57; other Literature, 13; Foreign languages, $\frac{1}{2}$; Music, 3.

WALLACE A. BENSON, of New York, has been victimizing rural Connecticut, it is said, especially New London County. His scheme was to work up the villagers into enthusiasm over a project for establishing a free library. Fifty good men in Taftville paid down one-dollar subscriptions. Mr. Benson has gone away. He was honest enough, though, to send the "library" by express. It consists of paperback dime novels, the whole collection possibly worth \$3. A like game, it is alleged, is being played in New York and Pennsylvania towns.

PARIS.—*Le livre* gives some information about the nine prison libraries. They have existed since 1847; in 1883, 2800 francs were allotted to them, with which 1259 books were bought. The list of books to be purchased is made out by the director of each prison and revised by the central authorities. They are then submitted to booksellers for offers, and assigned to the lowest bidder. The prisoners themselves do the binding, and the librarian is chosen from among them, those who are in for long terms being preferred. If there is none such in any prison when a vacancy occurs, the director borrows a criminal from another establishment.

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